



# ROSS HULL MEMORIAL VHF-UHF CONTEST 2007 - 2008

John Martin (VK3KWA), contest manager

The next Ross Hull Contest will run from December 26, 2007 to January 13, 2008.  
Logs will be due by February 4.

The annual Summer VHF-UHF Field Day will be held over the closing weekend of the Ross Hull Contest. Field Day contacts may be included in your Ross Hull log, provided each station you work appears in your log only once per band per day.

There has been a relaxation of the rules on serial number exchanges for contacts made using M/S or short-lived Es openings: callsigns plus two other digits will be accepted for contest purposes.

## The Contest

The WIA maintains a perpetual trophy in honour of the late Ross A. Hull and his pioneering achievements in VHF and UHF operation. The name of each year's contest winner is engraved on the trophy, and other awards may be made in the various divisions of the contest. The contest is open to all amateurs.

## Duration

0000 UTC Sunday December 26, 2006 to 2400 UTC Sunday January 13, 2007.  
In Eastern Summer Time, that is 11 a.m. on December 26 to 11 a.m. on January 14.

## Sections

A: VHF - UHF (50 MHz through to 1296 MHz), non-digital modes.  
B: Microwaves (1296 MHz and above), non-digital modes.  
C: Digital Modes, all bands.

Digital modes are defined as those in which the decoding of the received signal is done by a computer. Entrants may submit logs for one or more sections.

## General Rules

One callsign and one operator per station. You may claim one contact per station per band per UTC day. Repeater, satellite and crossband contacts are not permitted. No contest activity is permitted below 50.150 MHz. In Sections A and B, entrants making contact on recognised DX calling frequencies should not occupy these frequencies for prolonged periods. All rulings of the contest manager will be accepted as final.

## Valid Contacts

For Sections A and B, entrants must exchange RS (or RST) reports plus a serial number. Serial numbers need not be consecutive. For propagation modes such as meteor scatter or short-lived sporadic E openings, exchange of callsigns plus two further digits is sufficient. For Section C, exchange callsigns plus two further digits that cannot be predicted by the other station.

## Scoring

Scoring will be based on the best 7 UTC days nominated by the entrant. Each contact will be scored as follows:

For 2 metres and above, one point per 100 km or part thereof (i.e. up to 99 km: 1 point, 100 - 199 km: 2 points, etc).

For 6 metres only, contacts below 1000 km: as above. Contacts from 1000 km to 2400 km, 2 points regardless of distance. Contacts over 2400 km, 20 points regardless of distance.

The band multipliers are:

6 m	2 m	70 cm	23 cm	Higher
x 1	x 3	x 5	x 8	x 10

### Logs

Logs must cover the full contest period and contain the following for each contact:

- Date and UTC time.
- Station location (if operating portable).
- Frequency and callsign of station worked.
- Reports and serial numbers sent and received.
- Approximate location or grid locator of station worked.
- Estimated distance worked and points claimed, including the band multiplier.

Separate scoring columns for each band would be helpful.

### Cover Sheet

Logs must be supplied with a cover sheet containing:

- Operator's callsign, name and address.
- Station location (if different from the postal address).
- Section(s) entered, and a list of the UTC days to be scored.
- A scoring table set out as the example below.
- A signed declaration that the station has been operated in accordance with the rules and spirit of the contest, and that the contest manager's ruling will be accepted as final.

Please use the following format for your scoring table. If you wish you can cross-check by adding the daily totals across the table, but please make sure that you include the separate band totals.

<b>Date</b>	<b>6 m</b>	<b>2 m</b>	<b>70 cm</b>	<b>23 cm</b>	<b>etc</b>					
	----	----	----	----	----					
Day 1	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx					
Day 2	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx					
etc.										
	----	----	----	----	----					
<b>Total</b>	xxx +	xxx +	xxx +	xxx +	xxx =					<b>xxx (GRAND TOTAL)</b>

A sample cover sheet and scoring table has been included in the postings on the WIA web site. Copies can also be obtained from the e-mail address given below.

### Penalties

Minor errors in distance estimates or calculations may be corrected and the score adjusted. Prolonged use of recognised DX calling frequencies (especially when the reports indicate strong signals) may incur a scoring penalty. Inclusion of any false log entries will lead to disqualification.

### Entries

Paper logs may be posted to the Manager, Ross Hull Contest, 3 Vernal Avenue, Mitcham, Vic 3132. Electronic logs can be e-mailed to [vhf-contests@wia.org.au](mailto:vhf-contests@wia.org.au). The following log formats are acceptable: ASCII text, Office 97 or Office 2000 RTF, DOC, XLS or MDB.

Logs must be received by **Monday, February 4, 2006**. Early logs would be appreciated.

### Note on Calculating Distances

Absolute accuracy is not required. You just need to know whether each station is above or below the nearest multiple of 100 km, so you can use a compass to draw 100 km circles around your location on a map. A more accurate method is to use six-digit Maidenhead locators and a computer program that can be obtained by emailing the address given above. (The program has been updated to version 3.)





# Wireless Institute of Australia

## ROSS HULL MEMORIAL VHF-UHF CONTEST 2007 - 2008: RESULTS

Contest manager: John Martin VK3KM

This year I offer congratulations to Andrew Davis VK1DA, who has taken top position in the VHF-UHF section of the contest. Congratulations also to Rex Moncur VK7MO, who again wins the digital modes section. No logs were received this year for the microwave section.

The last summer season has been another very disappointing one for the Ross Hull Contest. For many years – decades in fact – the contest used to generate a high level of activity. But this began to decline in the mid 1990s and the downwards slide has continued since then, in spite of increasing interest in VHF-UHF DX activity.

There seem to be several reasons for the decline. One is the distance-based scoring system. In many ways it is ideal for a DX contest because the scores are directly proportional to the distance worked. But it does impose extra work in making up the log, and it may be better to replace this system with scoring based on grid squares.

Another problem is the duration of the contest. It has always been quite long – between two and four weeks – because that makes it more likely that there will be some band openings during the contest period. And if it is too short, the odds are that many people may not happen to be free while the contest is on.

Over the years I have tried to point out that it isn't necessary to spend the entire contest period in the shack – just work what you can when you can. To emphasise this, for some years the scoring has been based on the best seven days within the contest period. So why hasn't this helped? I think the main reason is that the possibility of winning became more important than just getting on the air and generating activity. Nobody seems to have any trouble making plenty of contacts when there is band opening, but it seems that many people have a problem with sending in a log unless they can fill it with every possible contact, regardless of the distance worked.

To get around this problem I propose to change the scoring to limit the number of contacts that need to be in the log. Activity can be spread over the full contest period rather than just seven days, and points can be scored for locator squares worked as well as for individual contacts. If a locator square is worth say ten times as much as a contact, entrants will be able to concentrate mainly on bagging extra locators, rather than feeling that they have to fill their logs by working anything that moves.

I'll publish a draft set of new rules a little later in the year, and in the meantime I would appreciate any comments. The email address for any suggestions is [vhf-contests@wia.org.au](mailto:vhf-contests@wia.org.au).

ROSS HULL CONTEST 2007 – 2008						
Call	Name	50	144	432	1296	TOTAL
Section A: VHF-UHF (6m - 23cm)						
<b>VK1DA</b>	<b>Andrew Davis</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1212</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>1879</b>
<b>VK7MO</b>	<b>Rex Moncur</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1356</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1356</b>
<b>VK2TG</b>	<b>Robert Demkiw</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1062</b>
<b>VK6ADI</b>	<b>Barrie Burns</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>930</b>
<b>VK2AH</b>	<b>Brian Farrar</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>853</b>
<b>VK2ARA</b>	<b>Ted Thrift</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>771</b>
<b>VK3HV</b>	<b>George Francis</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>45</b>
Section B: Microwaves (23cm and above)						
<b>No logs received.</b>						
Section C: Digital modes, All Bands						
<b>VK7MO</b>	<b>Rex Moncur</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1314</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12896</b>	<b>14210</b>
<b>VK1WJ</b>	<b>Waldis Jirgens</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>300</b>